



Ben Moreell Family Housing

Completion of 388 modern townhouses in Norfolk's Ben Moreell Family Housing in May 1997 capped the Navy's first completely new Neighborhoods of Excellence (NOE) project.

The original Ben Moreell Housing was constructed in 1941 as temporary housing for the WWII buildup. During its 52-year life span it was home to over 1 million residents. The life of the original Ben Moreell Housing came to an end in the Fall of 1993 with the demolition of 603 remaining original units to make room for the new \$37.4 million design/build project.

Construction of the new Ben Moreell Housing kicked off with a ground breaking in the fall of 1994. This was culminated with a ribbon cutting on a model unit less than a year later. The first families moved in during May 1996. The 77 acre site immediately south of the Armed Forces Staff College was completely cleared to make room for 388 modern, high-quality townhouses ranging from 1190 to 1540 square feet of living space, not including an attached storage shed and garage. The new units have 6 different floor plans consisting of 188 three-bedroom, 175 four-bedroom, and 25 five-bedroom units. Of the 388 units 20 are handicap adaptable with elevators.

Inside, the units have carpet, hardwood flooring, and sheet vinyl with a mixture of fluorescent and incandescent light fixtures for energy conservation. The units also have garage door openers, ceiling fans, refrigerator, dishwasher, gas range, garbage disposal, and are prewired for cable and telephone in all rooms. The intent to design a fully functional neighborhood was well carried out by including 9 playgrounds, tennis court, 1½ basketball courts, ½ mile asphalt running path with 3 fitness stations, picnic pavilion, community center, and sidewalks throughout.

The goal of NOE is to improve the quality of life for both single and married Sailors and Marines and their families. Under NOE existing housing is being renovated and new housing acquired. Additionally, NOE brings improved management, customer service, housing staffing and maintenance.